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FORMER I.N.S. INSPECTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

(DEL RIO, TEXAS) A former Immigration and Naturalization Service inspector at the Eagle Pass Port of Entry faces between ten years and life in federal prison and a maximum \$4 million fine after admitting he allowed cocaine and marijuana shipments to enter the United States.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge Dennis Green this morning, 30-year-old **ELIU OLVERA** pled guilty to one count each of conspiracy to import cocaine, conspiracy to import marijuana, bribery of a public official and exceeding authorized computer access for private financial gain. Between June 1, 2001, and July 11, 2002, Olvera received bribes in exchange for allowing vehicles loaded with marijuana and cocaine to pass through the Port of Entry without inspection. His standard fee was \$2,000 per loaded vehicle, regardless if it was marijuana or cocaine.

Olvera's mother in law, 41-year-old **MARIA GUADALUPE DELGADO** appeared in federal court yesterday and pled guilty to one count each of bribery and misprision of felony, that is, she willfully concealed a crime and did not, as soon as possible, make known the commission of the felony to law enforcement. As a result, Delgado faces up to 15 years in federal prison and a maximum \$500,000 fine.

On October 22, 2002, Olvera's wife, 24-year-old **YVONNE RODRIGUEZ**, appeared in federal court and pled guilty to one count of attempted importation of cocaine. As a result, Rodriguez faces between ten years and life in federal prison and a maximum \$4 million fine. Sentencing is scheduled for January 10, 2003, before U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice.

On July 11, 2002, U.S. Customs officials arrested all three individuals—Olvera at the Eagle Pass Port of Entry; Rodriguez and Delgado at an Eagle Pass grocery store parking lot. Rodriguez and Delgado were waiting to collect \$30,000 in exchange for Olvera allowing a 20 kilogram load of cocaine to enter the U.S. without inspection.

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Delgado also provided Olvera with names and dates of birth of individuals for whom she wanted to receive I-94 documents. These individuals consisted primarily of relatives. Olvera would take home multiple I-94 documents from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry and using Delgados information, fill them out on his computer. Delgado paid Olvera \$100 for each I-94 document. There were approximately 20-30 documents in all. In addition to Delgado's requests, Olvera processed other unauthorized I-94 documents and sold them for between \$100 and \$1000 per document. A search of Olvera's residence uncovered numerous blank I-94 and 551 documents.

Finally, Olvera admitted to using an INS computer at the Port of Entry, without authority, to determine an individual's immigration status.

All three defendants in this case remain in federal custody.

This case is being investigated by United States Customs Service Internal Affairs and the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Kinnicutt is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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